



Emanuel Lutheran Church

366 Cohansey-Friesburg Road
P. O. Box 363
Elmer, NJ 08318
Phone: 856-451-5669

Sunday Opportunities:

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
in-person and via *Facebook live*
The Rev. Mark A. Werner, Pastor

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a community of faith, leading people to Christ.

APRIL ACTIVITIES AT EMANUEL

- April 1* – Anniversary Committee 9-1 Social Hall
April 2 – Palm Sunday, Sunday School 9:00, Worship 10:00
April 4 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
April 6 – Maundy Thursday Service at 6:00 PM
April 7 – Ecumenical Service at Elmer United Methodist 7:00 p.m.
April 8 – Easter Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.
April 9 – No Children’s Sunday School, Worship 10:00
April 11- Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
April 11 – Council Meeting 6:00 p.m. Social Hall
April 11 - Mutual Ministry Meeting following Council
April 12 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
April 13 – Pastor Mark’s Discipleship Group 6:00 p.m. Social Hall
April 16 – Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
April 18- Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
April 19 – Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
April 23 – Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
April 25 – Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Social Hall
April 26– Bible Study 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
April 26 – Acolyte article deadline
April 27 – Worship & Music Committee 6:00 p.m.vSocial Hall
April 29 – Clean out the Social Hall closet 9:00 a.m.
April 30 - Sunday School 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
April 30 – New Members’ Class 1:30 – 3:30 Social Hall

STEWARDSHIP

Financials as of February 2023:

YTD Income: \$33,944.10
YTD Expense: \$30,461.21
YTD Net Income: \$3,482.89
Total yearly budgeted income/expense: \$182,672.00

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|---------------|
| 1 | Tice Cobb | 13 | Reed Richey |
| 2 | Kathy Willis | | Dave Wilson |
| 7 | Klay Knerr | | |
| 8 | Betty Heil | 20 | Amy Gheysens |
| | Stephen Gheysens | | Monica Hess |
| 9 | Cindy Sutton | 25 | Logan Cocking |
| 10 | Katie Coleman | 26 | Avery Allen |

May everyone enjoy their special day and have a blessed year to follow!

Please let the office know if there are birthdays or anniversaries we have missed.

APRIL ALTAR GUILD

Helen Cobb
Elizabeth Brooks

APRIL USHERS

Kyle Knerr
Jimmy Cobb

APRIL LECTORS

- 2 – Cindy Plummer
9 – Barbara Sinnema
16 – Amy Werner
23 – Annabelle Cobb
30 – Mike Clarke

APRIL SOUP KITCHEN

Barbara Sinnema
Ellen Filbey
Nancy Cobb

If anyone would like to volunteer to read the lessons on a given Sunday, it would be much appreciated. It amounts to reading about every three months. Please let Nancy Cobb know if you are willing.

REMEMBERING GOOD FRIDAY

By Pr. Brian Triller

Our journey through the Lenten season is almost completed. Soon Holy Week will begin, leading us to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day.

This time of the Church year reminds me of my mother, who died on Tuesday of Holy Week in 2019. Her funeral service was held on Good Friday.

Together with family and friends on that Good Friday, I listened to God's Word being proclaimed. We heard the familiar words of Psalm 23, reminding us of our Good Shepherd's presence with us even though we were traveling through the valley of the shadow of death.

We heard the comforting words of Romans 8:31-39, which ends with this powerful promise: "...[N]either death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39 ESV)

And in John 14:1-6, we heard the assuring words of Jesus, reminding us that He has prepared a place in the Father's house for everyone who believes in Him, "the Way, and the Truth, and the Life." (John 14:6 ESV) As a baptized believer in Jesus Christ, my mother had lived her earthly life assured of her place in the Father's house.

During that service, I experienced a vibrant, profound thankfulness to Jesus for His sacrifice on the cross. More clearly and deeply than ever before in my life, I grasped the truth that He laid down His life so people would have a way to be with God in heaven. I was keenly aware that, because of what Jesus did by His death and resurrection--overcoming sin, Satan, and even death—we who were gathered for that funeral were able to celebrate that my mother is with our Lord for eternity.

What a tremendous gift we Christians have been given by our Father through His Son. In perfect obedience to the Father, Jesus sacrificed His life that we might have forgiveness of our sins and the certain promise of eternal life when it is time to leave this earthly life. In thankfulness to God, may we share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ, that they,

too, might believe in Him and dwell in the Father's house forever!

2023 SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness."

(2 Cor. 12:9a)

Last spring the Women of the Atlantic Mission Region held their first ever weekend retreat—and we had an absolute blast! So, we're doing it all over again, and YOU are invited!



Do you like chocolate? This year chocolate will be a metaphor for savoring God's grace (and we can even eat it, if you want)! We will draw closer to Jesus by diving

deeply into His miracles and what they teach us about grace. Sessions will include fresh Bible stories, small group discussion, worship, personal reflection, Christian service, and more.

This retreat will be held **Friday, May 5—Sunday, May 7 at Mount Asbury Retreat Center in Newville, PA** (off I-81 south of Carlisle).

Registration forms are available on the entrance bulletin board. Regular registration will run until **April 8**. Participants may register online as well. The link for that is

<https://atlanticmissionregionnalc.regfox.com/2023-retreat-pre-registration>.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Anniversary Committee - Kyle Knerr

Christian Education - Wayne Knerr

Fellowship - Brenda Mace, Chrissy Smith, Kathy Willis

Finance - Mike Clarke

Mutual Ministry - Brenda Mace, Steve Kennedy, Chrissy Smith

Property - Jimmy Cobb

Safety & Security – Brenda Mace, Kyle Knerr, Mike Clarke

Stewardship - Wayne Knerr

Witness/Outreach/Evangelism - Chrissy Smith

Worship& Music - Wayne Knerr

friesburg filosophy

Before you judge me,
make sure you're perfect.

LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

LCW met on March 13. All WaWa tickets have been sold. We thank everyone who purchased them. The money made goes to the 300th Anniversary Committee. We will be cleaning the Social Hall closet on **Saturday, April 29 at 9 am**. We also need any men or children who are willing to help. We will also be hosting the Alloway Ruritan for dinner on **May 4**. Patsy Madden and Cindy Cairone are planning the menu. They will be contacting ladies for donations. We are also in the process of obtaining a new small chalice for communion as the finish inside of the old chalice is gone. The next meeting is **Sunday, May 21** after church. All ladies are welcome to attend. Hope to see you. *Susan Shields*



He Has Risen Find the 40 **bold** words from Matthew 28:1-7 (ESV)

G G E L D N S F B E D D A F S
D U I N E I I N A W L E F E Q
A K A V E R S R O T O D R A E
E R A R S L T C R W H N A R N
D E I T D H A E I D E E I C O
H T L S Q S M D A P B C D L T
R A U U E B E W G L L S N O S
Y S A T L N N N L A M E Y T B
G K I E E S I Y E C M D S H M
E H D E C N A R A E P P A I O
W W A D T A E R G L L Y G N T
T H R H J E S U S W E I R G F
E O G H T A B B A S P G L A D
L I R O L L E D B A C K N A M
L W Q C R U C I F I E D Y A G

Now after the **Sabbath**, toward the **dawn** of the **first day** of the week, **Mary Magdalene** and the other Mary went to **see** the **tomb**. And **behold**, there was a **great earthquake**, for an **angel** of the **Lord descended** from **heaven** and came and **rolled back** the **stone** and **sat** on it. His **appearance** was like **lightning**, and his **clothing white** as **snow**. And for **fear** of him the **guards trembled** and became like **dead men**. But the angel said to the women, "Do **not** be **afraid**, for I know that you seek **Jesus** who was **crucified**. He is not here, for he has **risen**, as he said. Come, see the **place** where he **lay**. Then go quickly and **tell** his **disciples** that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to **Galilee**; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

Pastor's Perspective

April 2023

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!" Psalm 34:8

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall not thirst. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink." John 6:35, 54-55

When he sat at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him...And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." Luke 24:30-31a, 33b-35

I was presiding over communion in one of the three churches in my first call. In attendance was Curtis, who at the time, was almost two years old. He would sit with mom, grandma and grandpa. On this one particular Sunday, the family got up to come down the aisle to receive communion. Like good Lutherans do, they sat toward the back of the sanctuary. Worshippers had formed the line to come down to receive the body of Christ that I placed in their hands with the promise of Jesus, "This is my body, given for you". Well Curtis was not holding on to his grandpa's hand as he sometimes would. Instead, Curtis started walking down the aisle with a determined look on his face. He went around the people in line, walked past me, up the three steps to the altar where the other half of the loaf of bread was that we used for communion. I turned my head just in time to see Curtis help himself to the body of Christ, taking a big ole hunk right out of the other half of the loaf.

Now his mom felt embarrassed. Grandpa was deeply apologetic. Other's thought it was cute.

This is one of those profound memories that have stayed with me throughout my career. Scripture passages about communion and children in church frequently remind me of this and other things that happened when children are in church. While Curtis had not received his first communion class, while some would be shocked that Curtis was so brazen to help himself, while still others remember when you didn't receive communion until after confirmation, I have seen this as God at work.

As his mom usually held him when coming forward for communion, he heard the words I would say to her, "The body of Christ given FOR YOU!" Curtis wanted this simple gift, that instead of a blessing, he wanted Jesus.

Oh that we all would be as determined and insistent to be fed with the body of Christ. If we remembered that we are to partake of this sacrament in remembrance of Jesus, the great grace we have through him, and that in this small meal the church calls "the foretaste of the feast to come", we should be running to the rail.

The sad thing that I've observed since then is that as parents, many fail to make worship a priority in their lives. Comments are wide ranging as to why this is the case. Those who study church trends see this as the new reality. While technology has helped with the spreading of the word, communion cannot be given virtually. As we receive communion we can picture our ancestors receiving the promised wedding feast in its fullness in heaven, and in this way, feel connected with them even as death has separated us in this life. Yes, at times life just gets in the way and before long we have fallen out of the habit. It is sadly ironic that at times life gets in the way of being in the presence of Jesus who is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25).

It can indeed be challenging at times when young children are in worship. The attention span is short, they want your attention, and it feels like every little noise is calling the rest of the church to look at what is going on. It's okay. The parents before you have been in that circumstance themselves. Over time, children learn. They pick up on what is going on, sometimes like that of Curtis, even more than we do. It may feel as if it is hard to get anything out of the service. But remember, you receive Jesus. You receive him in the forgiveness of your sins. You receive him in the sacrament. As the liturgy ends you go blessed in the name in which you were baptized, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

God bless,
Pastor Mark